

**COMMISSION FILE NO:** 25-162-12 **DATE INTRODUCED:** December 1, 2025

**INTRODUCED BY:** Executive Director (Signature on File in the Office of the Commission)

**REFERRED BY COMMISSION CHAIRPERSON TO:** Operations Committee

**RELATING TO:** Restore the Executive Director's Original Delegated Authority, Contract S02017D01, Engineering Services – Blower Branch Pipe Replacement at the South Shore Water Reclamation Facility

**SUMMARY:**

The Commission is requested to restore the Executive Director's original delegated change order authority on Contract S02017D01, Engineering Services – Blower Branch Pipe Replacement at the South Shore Water Reclamation Facility (SSWRF), with Donohue & Associates, Inc. (Donohue).

SSWRF uses large quantities of compressed air to provide oxygen to the aeration basins in the secondary treatment process. Process air is conveyed from four blowers via individual 30-inch steel branch pipes into an underground 60-inch and 90-inch steel pipeline (the air header). The air header then conveys the process air approximately 1,730 feet from the Blower & Generator Building to the Aeration Buildings. Within the Aeration Buildings, pipelines branch off the air header ultimately to serve individual aeration basins. The blower branch piping and air header went into service in approximately 1970.

In January 2020, one of the 30-inch blower branch pipes developed a leak, resulting in the need to shut down all process air to complete an emergency repair. SSWRF can only operate for six to 12 hours without process air before risking loss of the biological treatment process in the aeration basins.

Due to the criticality of delivering air to the aeration system, the District created Project S02017, Process Air Header Improvements, and initiated inspections in both the blower branch piping and the air header. These inspections identified air leaks at additional locations in the branch pipes and in the air header.

**ATTACHMENTS:** **BACKGROUND** ☐ **KEY ISSUES** ☐ **RESOLUTION** ☒  
**FISCAL NOTE** ☒ **S/W/MBE** ☐ **OTHER** ☐ \_\_\_\_\_

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**COMMITTEE ACTION:** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**COMMISSION ACTION:** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

## **SUMMARY (Cont'd)**

### **Restore the Executive Director's Original Delegated Authority, Contract S02017D01, Engineering Services – Blower Branch Pipe Replacement at the South Shore Water Reclamation Facility**

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The purpose of Project S02017 is to restore the integrity of the blower branch piping and the air header. A loss of one of these branch pipes or a failure of the air header, which is an integral part of the biological treatment process, can negatively affect plant capacity, effluent quality, and the ability to meet the District's Wisconsin Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit effluent limits. Replacing the blower branch pipes and patching the air header will mitigate the risk of failure and is expected to provide at least 30 years of reliable service.

In May 2023, the District executed Contract S02017D01, Engineering Services – Blower Branch Pipe Replacement at SSWRF, with Donohue in an amount not to exceed \$268,710. The scope includes engineering design services, developing construction bid documents, bid and award services, and engineering services during construction to support the blower branch piping replacement and air header patching.

The District publicly bid and, in January 2025, awarded construction Contract S02017C01 to J. F. Ahern Co. (Ahern) in the amount of \$1,916,000. Ahern's contract will replace the blower branch pipes and patch the air header. Ahern's contract is expected to last through October 2027. Simultaneously, Donohue will provide engineering services support throughout the duration of this construction contract.

As work under Donohue's contract has progressed, several change orders have been executed that address scope revisions and additions necessary to complete the project. The following is a summary of the change orders executed under the Executive Director's change order authority:

- The District discovered leaks in the air header near one of the Aeration Buildings, separate from the previously known air header and branch piping leaks. Donohue provided engineering design services to correct these leaks.
- Provide specialized inspection services during construction to ensure the new and existing buried pipe is properly coated.

Commission policy delegates to the Executive Director the authority to enter into contracts less than \$300,000 without Commission approval, which was done for Contract S02017D01. If the contract and cumulative change orders are \$300,000 or more, the Executive Director shall seek the approval of the Commission. In January 2025, the Commission delegated \$50,000 in change order authority to the Executive Director for future change orders. To date, the Executive Director has utilized \$48,220 of this authority, leaving a balance of \$1,780. The request to restore the Executive Director's authority is in case any other additional services are needed. Without this restored authority, work may need to stop while staff obtains necessary change order authority from the Commission.

## **RESOLUTION**

Restore the Executive Director's Original Delegated Authority, Contract S02017D01,  
Engineering Services – Blower Branch Pipe Replacement at the South Shore Water  
Reclamation Facility

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**RESOLVED**, by the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage Commission, that the Executive Director's original delegated change order authority is restored on Contract S02017D01, Engineering Services – Blower Branch Pipe Replacement at the South Shore Water Reclamation Facility, with Donohue & Associates, Inc.